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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with Russian President Putin (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanassenko

Notetakers: Don Gentile, Jill Sandler, Marcy Caler

DATE, TIME: September 12, 2001, 9:35 - 9:40 a.m. EDT
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Vladimir, thank you for calling. If I sound like I'm in a hurry, I am. I have a top level security meeting starting now. I'd like to speak to you later on today when we have more time, at your convenience. Let me say two things quickly. You were the first leader to call yesterday. Thank you for that. Secondly, I believe our country is in a state of war. We're fighting a faceless coward. It's a new kind of war. And I believe the world needs to cooperate and I look forward to working with you, Sir. And I look forward to having the opportunity to work together in a new spirit and to show the world that freedom-loving people like you and me can unite against these cowards. The reason I am in a rush is that we believe there will be further attacks and I need to prepare the nation for that. So, if you don't mind, I'd like to call you back at your convenience before you go to sleep tonight so that we can talk a bit more before your visit. (S)

President Putin: Good, George, agreed. I'm at your disposal. I can tell you, by the way, that I have signed a decree that at 12 noon tomorrow, Russia will be having a minute of silence for the dead to show solidarity with you. All flags will be at half-mast and all entertainment functions will be stopped. (S)

The President: Thank you, friend. (S)

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President Putin: And I can only fully agree with you that, after such acts of terror, we must draw proper conclusions and launch acts of cooperation and become closer together. I'm fully with you and looking forward to hearing from you tonight. (S)

The President: Thank you. (U)

President Putin: And I can also say that, in conclusion, that our relationship has shown, between you and me, that although the situation is extremely difficult, I'm sure you and your team will triumph. I'll hear from you later. (S)

The President: Yes. Thank you, friend. Good-bye. (S)

President Putin: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --

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